BOOTH'S THEATRE—" La Patite Mariee," Aimee, BROADWAY THEATRE—" The Danites."
BRYANT'S OFFIRA HOUSE—Negro Minstrels, EAGLE THEATRE—" The Ticket of Leave Man."
NIBLO'S GARDEN—" Wild Flower of Mexico."
PARN THEATRE—" The Crushed Tragedian."
BAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—" PIRK DOMINOS."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—" Robinson Crusoe."

AMERICAN INSTITUTE-Annual Fair, GRAMORE'S GARDEN-Concert. MONMOUTH PARK-Races.
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Onsinces Nouces.

GAFF, FLEISCHMANN & Co.'s The genuine article hears our trade murk and signature, it which we invite special attention.

FAMILIES RETURNING from the country, wishing Bools and Shoes, good articles, moderate prices MILLER & Co., 849 Broadway, Domestic Building. Weilding and Ball Cards, foreign Note Paper, Monorams, practing all kinds, lowest prices. Everstell, 302 B.way.

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Persons unable to obtain THE TRIBUNE in any of the trains, bosts, or holels in which it is usually soid, will confer a favor by informing this office of the circumstances. THE TRIBUNE NOVELS may be obtained of the train newsboys on all railroads controlled by the Union News Company, and at all the principal city news-stands. The report to THE TRIBUNE Office of any failure to obtain the Novels where they are usually on sale will be researched. garded as a facor.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1877.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Formigs.-The Russians were still bombarding the Plevna defences on Tuesday morning. - The Montenegrius have defeated a Turkish detachment. = The St. Leger stakes have been won by Silvio. no money could have been paid for an appoint-= About 100 lives were lest by the sinking of / ment at the hands of the Board of Supervisthe ships Foster and Avalanche, which came ors without his knowing it; his candid admisinto collision in the English Channel.

Domestic.-Gov. Councr's plurality in Maine will exceed 11,000. ____ The Prohibitionists of Massachusetts held conventions and nominated State tickets. === Charles Francis Adams recommends the nomination of ex-Gov. Gaston by the Massachusetts Democrats. - The fourth report on the New-York Custom House has been sent to Secretary Sherman. —— Mr. Randall is be expected, bags several more anti-Tam-confident of election as Speaker. —— The roll of the House of Representatives will show a veteran briber, striker and thief confess how Democratic majority of eleven, :---- A new cattle- two minor politicians bled him of a large sum plague has appeared at Cleveland. ____ The President will attend the unveiling of the Soldier's Menument at Dayton.

city. ____ The Dominion Telegraph Company gave notice of suits to prevent the consummation of the pooling scheme. === The Bankers' Convention discussed the resumption of specie payments. Preparations were completed for the International guaranteed that Mr. Tilden and Mr. Barrett, Rifle Contest at Creedmoor. - Dr. Meyer and his the latter then counsel of the Committee of wife, accessed of malpractice, were allowed to give ball. Gold. 10338, 10334, 10338. Gold value of Tweed, if Tweed would pay O'Brien \$150,000. the legal-tender dollar at the close, 96710 cents. Tweed paid it, and Messrs. Tilden and Barrett Stocks active and higher for all but the coal shares,

THE WEATHER.-TRIBUNE local observations indicate partly cloudy weather with little change of temperature. Thermometer yesterday, 72°, 79°,

The St. Leger stakes go where the Derby stakes went. Silvio has repeated the double victory of Gladiateur.

THE TRIBUNE has special telegraphic communication with Creedmoor, and will receive dispatches every few minutes during the rifle contest to-day and on Friday. There will be displayed as bulletins, on large diagrams of the targets, each shot as soon as it is fired, thus showing, by diagrams as well as figures, the progress of the contest.

The first day's session of the Bankers' Convention brought a good attendance. The one theme was resumption, and before the session closed a plan was presented by Mr. Geo. S. Coe, which had been agreed upon at a meeting of fifty bank presidents. The details of the plan are given elsewhere. It is to be hoped that the convention will, in pursuance of Mr. Coe's additional suggestion, give such an expression in favor of resumption as will convince the Secretary of the Treasury that the banks are in carnest.

The vote in Maine more than justified Mr. Blaine's prediction. Gov. Connor's majority will probably exceed 11,500. The only other significant fact in the returns is the strength of the Greenback ticket, which received 5,000 votes. This exceeds all the prophecies. Last year its vote was one-tenth of that number. There is food in this for an instructive controversy. Let the harmonious Democratic press proceed to settle just what proportion of this vote was cast in revolt against Mr. Williams.

A new cattle plague is making ravages in Cleveland and the vicinity. The disease is said to have started in Texas. There is the usual alarm as to the poisonous infection being propagated to human beings by eating diseased beef or drinking the milk; but until some cases of the kind are verified, it is as well to doubt these rumors. If the new plague should prove as rapid in spead as the rinderpest, we may soon expect to hear of it as having crossed the Atlantic. As a curious instance of the distances to which such diseases travel, it may be mentioned that the rinderpest has penetrated to northern Siberia, and destroyed large numbers of reindeer.

In Massachusetts the Prohibition party is a party of considerable strength, if not of much system of appointment. Nearly all the places

yesterday, in striking contrast to the poor two dozen delegates who met at Harrisburg. It the establishment as a right. To such an ex- may be mortgaged heavily, and its owner may may be, however, that the action of the Massachusetts Convention in smothering a resolution commending President Hayes for keeping his promises, was of no special significance. The party evidently prides itself upon presenting "a State issue" to the voters of Massachusetts, and will not go out of its way to approve the conduct of a man who has set the singular precedent of fulfilling, as President, the pledges which he made as a candidate.

Ex-Gov. Chamberlain has decidedly the advantage of ex-Treasurer Parker in any personal controversy about South Carolina affairs. Mr. Parker has been indicted, and Mr. Chamberlain has not, though the number of indictments is large, and they include many of the heads of the Republican party in South Carolina. It is not likely that he would have been omitted if he could have been well included. As Mr. Chamberlain shows in his straightforward answer, printed elsewhere, Parker has an old grudge against him, for Parker's troubles with the courts began while Mr. Chamberlain was still Governor. The grudge has been well fed, for the ex-Treasurer has sought to discredit him in his own party, and to enable his opponents to crush him in the courts. He failed to do either, and is now taking his revenge in swearing at him in the newspapers.

It is well that a protest has been spoken from the bench against the disgracefully arbi- ing and even disastrous. It cannot have escaped attentrary and wholly illegal arrest and detention of Dr. Meyer and his wife. The fact that they are charged with a revolting crime is no excuse for a wanton disregard of the safeguards which the law throws about the liberty of the citizen. These persons were arrested without warrant and held for three days by the magistrate without complaint. Just such an experience might befall the richest or the mest respectable citizen of New-York to-morrow, if the officer could be found to arrest, and pointed as a reward for party services, there the magistrate to commit. Where now persons have suffered imprisonment who Government is neglected, while the force at probably deserve it-though that no officer or magistrate has any business to assume in the actual requirements of the service. absence of proof-then persons might be subjected to the cruelty and outrage of irregular imprisonment, whose suffering might be a tion of the Philadelphia Custom House is conshock to the whole community. Judge Westbrook spoke the general sense yesterday in his condemnation of this whole affair. Arbitrary arrests are becoming alarmingly common. Detectives have been turning hotels into prisons, and now a prison has become a place in which the ordinary proceedings of the law are coolly disregarded. It will not do for the Javne style of arrest to become too fashionable.

Mr. Tweed dealt yesterday with ancient ring history, which is familiar to all newspaper readers. There is a good deal, however, in his way of telling it that makes even an old story interesting. The coolness with which be declares that "up to 1870 and 1871," the bills all had "a basis," leaving the imagination exhansted with the effort to conjecture what manner of ingenious fabrications the bills were after that time; his pleasant confidence that sion that he was "fooled" when he thought he was buying Mr. Tilden off, and his historical allusion to the Committee of Seventy-these are recognized as being in the "old man's" best vein, and are greeted with servile laughter in the City Hall. Beyond this, there seems to be little to notice, except that Mr. Tweed, as was to be expected, bags several more anti-Tamof money, for which they rendered no equivalent; for the transaction in which Tweed and ex-Senator O'Brien were principals, and Senhave managed, and which Tweed, of all men, might have been expected to resist. O'Brien Seventy and now Judge, would "let up" on somehow neglected to "let up." And Tweed admits that he was fooled. It seems strange, indeed, that it was so easily done, and by the Hon. James O'Brien, at that!

A SPECIMEN CUSTOM HOUSE.

The Custom House at Philadelphia appears, from the report of the Investigating Commission, to be a pretty good ser, of an establishment, as custom houses go. Within the past year and a half, at all events, the service has been greatly improved. The practice of receiving gratuities has been abolished. There are satisfied. The force, as a general thing, is a fair one; the public business is transacted with a reasonable regard to business principles; and "the tendency and tone of the service at present are healthful and in the right "direction." This is a gratifying verdict, and if the commission had gone no further we might have rested happy in the belief that there was at least one custom house which could defy the tongue of slander and the perquisitions of investigators. But, unfortunately the approval is qualified. There are some very large blemishes, which the committee think tal, must be what has been actually paid, not ought to be removed, and we must confess

that we agree with them. If there are neither gratuities nor bribes, there is, or at least there has been, a system of perquisites almost as bad. Samplers have been permitted a pretty free range among the casks of wines and spirits, and the hogsheads of sugar and molasses; and besides keeping open a refreshment room in the Custom House building, where employes and their friends, Washington office-holders and Pennsylvania politicians, luxuriated in free drinks, and grew moist about the eyes and rosy at the peak, at the cost of vessel owners and importers, they have driven a brisk little outside trade by the sale of "samples" in packages and bottles. Quantities of liquers and other goods have been presented to the revenue officers by the persons with whom they transact official business, and have been landed without payment of duty. The committee inally advertised, \$28,425,160; assets availamildly remonstrate with the Appraiser for pleading ignorance of these abuses. If he had no suspicion of what was going on, he can hardly be a very valuable officer, for even the Surveyor, Deputy Surveyors, and Naval Officer shared in the plunder. It would be interesting | Our native concerns have been generally trustto know how or where the commission draws worthy on this point, and though doubtless the line between gratuities and corruption on the one hand, and samples and irregularity on the other.

A great deal no doubt is explained by the

tent has this usurpation been carried that be otherwise in debt. The companies that have regular accounts are kept at the Custom House | been most prominent in the misleading exhibwith important personages in the party, and its, do business in life insurance and annuities they are fermally debited with the appointments made upon their order. It would be interesting to know what sort of entries appear on the other side of the ledger. Such being the method of appointment, it is not surprising that the roll of employés discloses some very queer things. The title and salary of Naval Officer have belonged for the past six years to a newspaper editor at Lancaster. The Surveyor owns a paper at Towanda. The Local Appraiser is a journalist at West Chester. A General Appraiser is in the clothing business, having shops in Philadelphia and New-York. One of the examiners is an apothecary at Downingtown. The captain of the night-watch is a Philadelphia butcher, and one of the day inspectors keeps a hotel. . To this we may add that the Collector is a non-resident (which is contrary to law), and the commission makes the following gentle remarks:

By law the Collector, Naval Officer, Surveyor, Appraiser and Assistant Appraisers are required to reside at the port of Philadelphia, and though in some of the ases above mentioned the non-resident officers appear to have been able to give proper attention to their ordinary duties, we are admonished by recent events of the possi-bility of some sudden emergency or unexpected peril, by fire or otherwise, affecting the interests and property of the Government, when the absence from the city of nearly all the chief revenue officers might be embarrasstion that the four chief officers of the port were, without exception, non-residents when appointed. Without giving too much weight to the considerations of locality, or intending any reflection on the character or capacity of these gentlemen, we think that in general it is advisable to have some representation of the locality in offices of such importance to its residents.

As a matter of course, while so many of the important officers of the Custom House are engaged in private business, and live at a distance from the posts to which they were apare many complaints that the work of the the same time is largely in excess of the

These disclosures will probably not be thought especially scandalous, and, in fact, the condisidered, as we said before, rather better than that of similar establishments elsewhere. But this circumstance makes the report all the more suggestive. If this is a fair specimen of the manner in which the revenue is collected where the officers are generally decent men, and the Collector has been for a year and a half "improving" his force, what must be the system which leaves, after all, so much ground for complaint, and what must be the condition of affairs in the establishments where of such facts it really seems absurd to com- good as the others, while simply telling truth. plain of the elimination of the Custom House from politics. Whatever may be thought of the application of the President's order in its sweeping extent, and the unfortunate want of discrimination in devising, and of judgment when Mr. Hayes set about abolishing the sort of Custom House Republicanism which prevails in many of our large scaport cities, he undertook a work which deserves the applause gratitude of the Republican party.

BIG SIGNS TAKEN DOWN. About a month ago we called the attention of our readers to a proclamation from the State Insurance Department, enforcing the new law requiring companies to state their assets truthfully. It is well known that certain concerns indulged in fabulous legends of display, representing millions of dollars as "capital," "assets," and the like, which have had a very seductive and soothing influence upon people who wanted a safe insurance on their property. he bought one-half of O'Brien's claim against the city. — The Dominion Telegraph Company gave after Bixby was agent, seems to have differed in no respect from an ordinary "strike," which the shabbiest lobbyist at Albany could of \$12,000,000 as "capital," or to withthat begins with an assertion, in type of appropriate size, that the "assets" are \$19,-555,071 16. Doubtless it has been a great comfort to the holders of fire insurance policies in certain companies, to contemplate similar statements of the wealth in reserve somewhere, into which they may dip their ladle the next morning after their property burns down. There seemed to be something substantial in these big figures, especially as they were repeated on the margins of policies, at the tops of statements and letter-heads, on the backs of envelopes and sheets of blotting-paper. These sums far out-topped those which our oldest and most respectable fire insurance companies put forward as their assets or capital. The difference was very remarkable, the corresponding sets of figures of our most trusty underwriters being scarcely a tenth of the are no evidences of bribery. The merchants amounts displayed by some of those whose home offices are not in this State.

But the law passed last May, which Superintendent Smyth says he means to enforce, has changed all this. Neither in advertisements, signs, circulars, policies, certificates, nor otherwise, is a company doing business in this State at liberty to make such misleading statements. Whatever a corporation of underwriters represents as its funds or assets, must be actually owned by it and available for the protection of holders of policies of fire insurance; and whatever it declares as its capiwhat may have been promised. These do not appear to be very severe requirements on the part of the law. They only provide that a fire insurance company shall be honest in its general exhibits and public statements. The effect has, however, been quite marvellous in the sudden disappearance of sign-boards with with similarly attractive amounts. Where new sets of figures were substituted, the contrast was frequently remarkable. Instead of, for instance, "capital, \$12,500,000," there appears paid up capital, \$1,250,000.". Of course there is no particular baste about displaying these shrinkages; in general, there is a mere withdrawal of the earlier display. But if the correct figures were substituted in every case, the contrast would be yet more astonishing. As a specimen out of nearly a dozen, the following might be given: "Assets" as origble for fire risks, \$7,025,717; assets to meet fire risks in the United States, \$3,652,063. Somewhat similar sets of figures would be found to apply to at least a dozen companies. none of which have their home offices here sorely tempted, have not gone into a competition in such misleading displays. The big signs were not falsehoods out of

whole cloth. Their performance is as if a

men have generally claimed the patronage of answer to the question, because the property as well as in tire risks. The life insurance and annuity part of each concern virtually holds a mortgage upon the whole of the funds received in that branch of the business. An Act of Parliament declares that this branch shall be kept separate from other transactions, and its fund shall not be applied to or liable for contracts other than those of life assurance. A supplementary act declares that this restriction applies to all British insurance companies. The fund thus set apart for life risks, and which cannot be touched for fire losses, is in many instances more than half the total assets. The exact relation of these two branches of business in the case of individual companies is not thoroughly ascertainable, as there is no system of Government superintendence in England such as we have in several of our States, and nobody knows outside of the companies how their life risks are estimated-for instance, as to the rate of interest which their invested funds must earn to meet the life liabilities they have assumed. The nominal "capital" is a mere matter of subscription; the small portion of it that is paid being all that is worthy of consideration. The whole subject is too extensive for treat-

ment in this column. But enough has been said to serve for a renewal of the advice we have frequently effered to our readers: in purchasing insurance, let the buyer beware. The mere statement that a company has a certain amount of "capital," "assets," or "surplus," should be taken only as the praises which an auctioneer lavishes upon his goods; possibly true, and in the case of companies that undergo our State examinations, likely to be correct; but not all that a careful purchaser needs to know. It is of far more importance to ascertain where and how these funds that are to pay losses are invested; how much of them is applicable to the risk in hand; whether they can be removed out of the reach of creditorswhether the company is doing business prudently or carelessly; and especialty whether it is taking large risks, massed together in localities like our "dry-goods district," so that one night's fire may be its ruin. Our leading companies have learned caution on this last point since the Chicago and Boston fires, and they take only small and separated risks in dangerous localities. It should not need argument to prove that companies which continue to take heavy risks massed together, cannot be so safe. The excuse has been that the coneerns which took these great risks had large 'capital" or "assets" to fall back upon. But under our new law there has been a shrinkage of these items, so that our more cautious comreform has not yet begun? In the face panies make a display of figures at least as

THE FROZEN SMILE.

There's something very startling in the aspect of a man who in the midst of a great and hearty laugh over what he thinks is an in enforcing it, there can be no question that excellent joke discovers suddenly that it is no joke at all. The laugh stops short and freezes into an expression that may be imagined but cannot be described. It is doubtful if this rozen smile, under such circumstances, is more of all good men, and will ultimately earn the | ludicrous or frightful. Not to go into the subject at length or dwell upon the infinite variety of smiles and sudden variations of expression which congelation may effect in them, take the single instance of the politician, who, at the very height of his merriment over a successful game against the people, with a platform or a candidate, finds suddenly that the people, after all, have won the game, and he has deceived no one but himself. Fancy that smile frozen and that laugh choked with a hollow gurgle in his throat. Nay, fancy a battalion of them in sections, or running slowly but and divisions, until the whole force had fairly pearance in Pittsburg and Cincinnati. stiffened into the voiceless and motionless form of inextinguishable mirth. There are the hands on the hips, the half-bent bodies, the mouth wide open with the "ha, ha, ha" exwith fun, but no sound nor movement in it all; the whole thing struck dead and frozen stiff with wonder and surprise.

It is not altogether fancy. The frozen smile is the current spectacle. It pervades the country. There is no custom house, however watched and tended, but one dead smile is there. No village post office is now without it: they have it everywhere. The smiles that have so abruply frozen, like the Revolutionary soldiers addressed by the late Mr. Webster, have come down to us from a former gene-'ration." The gentlemen who own them were in the habit, for many years, of amusing the people and entertaining each other political platforms that absolutely with overflowed with promises of an immediand the reform of the Civil Service. They nominated candidates, too, who reiterated the promises, and added more to them in their letters of acceptance. And when they had done this, the carpet-baggers at the South, who knew the settlement of the Scuthern question would end their political careers and the office-holders, who drew large salaries for no work, and knew that Civil Service Reform would send them "kiting," doubled themselves up with laughter at the way people swallowed it all. But they laughed longest and loudest when the confiding voters ventured to inquire, after the election, how soon the settlement and the reform would begin. So the smile became, in a measure, chronic, and the men in office came millions on them, and of stationery fringed to be much more careless than the Roman Augurs; they openly winked and smiled, and thrust their tongues in their cheeks when they met. Last year they assembled at Cincinnati, passed resolutions and nominated a candidate for President in the old way, and-smiled, The candidate wrote a letter of acceptance approving the platform and promising to carry out the reforms it suggested. They read it

and-smiled. It was the old story. So after the election and inauguration, there still was the smile radiant in all fat places, and unctuous in two or three Southern States. But the smile of the carpet-bagger shortly began to turn to a sickly yellow about the lips, and settle into hard lines; and one day the President did what he had said he would settled the Southern question-and it froze. It was not pretty, but it did look picturesque. Then there came, one day, to the New-York Custom House a number of gentlemen of an inquiring turn of mind, with authority to ask questions, and they began to ask the weighers if they weighed, the gaugers if they gauged, the inspectors if they house-owner were to reply to the question inspected, and all sorts of ridiculous things of discretion, and can muster nearly a thousand seem to have been filled by Congressmen or "How much are you worth?" "I own a that sort. At which the weighers who didn't delegates at its State Couvention, as it did other prominent politicians, and these gentle-

the inspectors who didn't inspect, and all patriots who had been receiving pay for "read-"ing the newspapers and talking politics" looked at each other and said "He's carrying this "thing too far," And the lines of the custom house smile began to stiffen. Then came an order discharging the weighers who didn't weigh, and the gaugers who didn't gauge, and the inspectors who didn't inspect, and the smile freze several inches thick. To-day the whole neighborhood is cooled by it.

The Philadelphia Custom House continued

to smile. It was a smile of incredulity, mixed with confidence. But the gentlemen who asked questions went over there and propounded conundrums. They found among the smiling parriots in that institution a naval officer who owns and edits a couple of newspapers as far off as Lancaster; a surveyor who is engaged in the same honorable calling in Towarda, Bradford County; a local appraiser, who owns and edits a semi-weekly newspaper at Westchester, Chester County; a general Appraiser, engaged in the clothing business in Philadelphia and New-York; an examiner who runs a drug store; a captain of the night watch, who carries on business as a butcher, and a daily inspector who keeps a hotel. And the conviction is now gaining ground in the Philadelphia Custom House that the Administration is "carrying this "thing too far." The incredulousness is fading out of the Philadelphia smile, and it too begins to show signs of congelation. It will freeze hard shortly, and there will be another addition to the Gallery of the Frozen Smile. It is a very remarkable array. All frozen stiff with their tongues in their cheeks. And the President goes right along without seeming to know that he is doing what he promised but was not expected to do, is setting up in our custom houses the most unique collection of grotesque statuary that ever stared a people in the face.

THE TOWN IN SEPTEMBER.

The cold weather with which September opened drove townspeople back in swarms from the country. Economy, too, no doubt, has its share in shortening the Summer holiday. Whatever the cause, the streets are filling up earlier than usual. The retail trade, which is the surest gauge of the public purse, was exceptionally dull during August, when in ordinary seasons Western customers partially supply the loss of city business. Chicagoans, as well as New-Yorkers, have fallen upon times which force them to wear their old coats and take their ease on carpets long off color. The lesson is worth at least as much to Americans as the comfort of new coats and carpets. When the hard times are over, there are very few of ns, whatever our income, who will not have learned how much money we used to spend in show and luxury in which was neither real comfort nor beauty. The hard times are not vet over, by any means. They will perhaps be harder than ever this winter, in spite of the enormous crops, owing to the fact that public confidence is shaken in every kind of investment by the strikes. The discontented workingman (or the tramp who represents him) is a new element to be considered in business matters. He may break out any day, like a train of gunpowder under ground, and is about as reasonable and manageable. The small capitalist is just now mortally afraid of him, and it is the millions of small capitalists who keep in motion the great currents of trade.

Our people are gathering home for the Fall work in a more serious mood than usual. There is a deep-rooted feeling that worse dangers than lack of money are close at hand. Well-to-do church-going people are roused to the existence of a class who are not beggars, and yet declare themselves to be starving. They perceive, for the first time too, the existence of certain behefs in this class which sermons and Sunday-schools do not reach. them drawn up, and the freeze catching Orderly folk, who have been used to think of Communism and bloody-minded Jacques surely down the line. Or an army as belonging altogether to the other side of of them transfixed by regiments and brigades | the water, are unduly astonished at their ap-

simply because the American workingman, though in a hard strait, is neither a Frenchheads thrown back, the lifted eye-brows, the man nor a German. He does not trouble himself much with vague theories of human equalipression, and all the countenance wrinkled up ty. He is in a hard strait, because, when economy became necessary, two years ago, his was the only class which refused to economize, Millionaires retrenched; the clerk whose income was \$1,000, brought down his expenses to \$700; but the laborer who earned from \$400 to \$600 per annum, spent every penny of it. It is a fact, well known to everybody who has had dealings with the ignorant grades of laborers, that they are more extravagant in proportion to their means than any other class. As a rule, John, who digs, when he has a dollar in his pocket, buys as choice a cut of meat with it as the man who pays him for digging. Before the war he lived on \$1 per day. The coarser grades of flour and meat, which he ate then, are the same price now. Men of more culture than he are learning to do withate settlement of the Southern question, and the reform of the Civil Service. They Fall. We have great faith in his hard American sense. He saw how gigantic a joke the foreigners' cry of "bread or blood" was in St. Louis, with a country in the background yielding enormous crops, and a vast territory waiting for him to till it. John will not turn permanent Communist or thief, but, when the Spring comes, will go energetically to farming. In the mean time, let us deal with bim in the towns reasonably and justly. How to do this is the first question for us to settle in September, both as individuals or corporate bodies.

> \$5,353,000 of the bonds issued by Henry Meiggs in the prosecution of his railway enterprises, and thus to facilitate the completion of one of the greatest engineering works of the age. Meiggs raised money by the issue of his own notes, which the Government guaranteed, and for some time, notwithstanding the opposition of the foreign bankers, they passed curreut in the ordinary commercial transactions of Pern, although of late the works have been greatly interrupted by financial difficulties. If the present scheme succeed, the most remarkable railway in the world will probably soon be finished and one of the richest of all existing silver mines will be throwing its products upon the market. What a career that of the South-American railway king has been! Thirty odd years ago, he was a respectable and rather quiet citizen of New-York, best known, perhaps, as a patron of musical societies, at a time when such organizations needed a great deal of careful nursing. He went to California in the early days of the gold excitement, and made a fortune as a lumber merchant. He had establishments in many parts of the State, and his headquarters in San Francisco. A great quantity of heavy planking was used there, instead of pavements, as the city began to grow and the municipal government issued scrip to pay for it. The scrip became popular. The lumber business got to be one of the leading interests of the city, and many fortunes were built upon it. One morning in 1854, Mr. Meiggs was missing. He had taken advantage of his position as a member of the municipal council to

The latest South American mails bring news that

the Peruvian Government has determined to redeem

issue a large amount of fraudulent, or at least unauthorized scrip, and getting into trouble, had collected every scrap of property he could carry away, loaded a schooner of his own (taking even the furniture of his house and the ornaments from his parlor mantel), gone on board with his family, and before the town was awake had dropped down the bay, and spread sail for Australia. There was a great panie in San Francisco, and a series of failures lasting two years. Meanwhile the fugitive, unsuccessful in Australia, had gone penniless to Chili and thence to Peru, and when the world next heard of him he was a millioneaire at Lima. He improved and beautified the city, created a public park and built railroads for the Government, and all that he touched prospered. In 1860 he had become rich enough to buy up the outstanding claims against him in California, and since then the Legislature of the State has passed a sort of act of oblivion, which will enable him to return whenever be pleases.

The recent appointment and subsequent withdrawal of Mr. Stoanaker, of wax-works fame, give point to the criticism so often made in these later days, that the President is not well served in political matters by those about him. He ought not to be permitted to fall into such incomprehensibly stupid blunders. This appointment of Mr. Sloanaker was simply a thing not to be thought of. As good an illustration of its character as any, is found in the fact that the moment the Administration learned what had really been done, the commission was cancelled. The case of George H. Butter was another such. Yet even Carl Schurz sat silent and acquiescent in the Cabinet when that appointmen twas announced, and was fain afterwards to excuse himself on the amazing ground that he didn't happen to remember who "Gen. Butler's nephew, George," was! The cause of Civil Service Reform should be more intelligently served.

The death of Mr. Samuel G. Ogden removes from the public service a valuable official, and from society an esteemed member of an old aml well-known family. He had been so long identified with the Custom House, and had mastered so thoroughly the details of an important branch of its administration, that it came to be almost an axiom of the Government that Mr. Ogden could never be spared. Collectors came and went, Presidents were chosen and disappeared, there were revolutions in polities, reforms and reorganizations, but nebody dreamed of appointing a new Auditor. Mr. Ogden, in short, illustrated in his own person the principles of Civil Service Reform, and every one realizes that the public systains a real loss when he is taken away. He came of a good stock, and inheriting a respected name he bore it with honor.

The dispatches tell a varying tale from day to day concerning the condition of Senator Morton; but the general impression they leave is that the Senator's recovery is doubtful, and his futur netivity in politics impossible. This is in some respectan misfortune for the country, and in many a very great misfortune for the Republican party. But there is no hope of averting the dangers to which it points by shutting our eyes to them. The probability is that the Republican majority in the Senate will be too weak, in Mr. Morton's absence and Spener's disaffection, to withstand any determined onset. Practically, then, within six months after his inauguration, the Provident is confronted by a hostile Congress, and politicians may as well have their calculations for the future upon that state of facts.

The marked approval and large sale of the Tarnune novels in the new standard form, with pages about the size of Harper's Weekly, have induced the change of some of the earlier numbers to the same convenient size. "Lords and Ludies" and "Good Luck," two of the most popular stories in the entire series, have been changed to the new form, and the transformation of others is in progress. Since the form now adopted will be continued in future nambers of the novels, and is much more convenient for use and preservation, it may be worth while for previous readers of the series to obtain them in the new edition; while to those who have yet to make the acquaintance of these or other TRIBUNE novels, we commend ali, as by far the brightest and best fiction published in this cheap form.

The competition for votes in the New-Jersey Democratic Convention next week, is very brisk in the city and suburbs of Newark, and, as a consequence, highly speculative prices are offered for delegates In ordinary sensons, a delegate, who could get \$25 or \$30 bid for himself, is considered to have found a fair market, and delegates have been known to deliver themselves at much lower figures. At this time, however, they are held to be worth as much as able-bodied substitutes were in the days of drafting, and, considering the amount of capital invested, The fact is, there is no need of alarm, there are few more promising industries than being a Democratic delegate from Essex County

POLITICAL NOTES.

The anti-Tilden Democrats seem to be laying the foundations of another sore head.

Mr. Cox's confidence appears to be just about one handred times the dimensions of his following.

Where is Mr. David A. Wells's impending Free-Trade eyclone concealed at present ! In the sepul-chire of the Free-Trade League !

The able financiers who are clamoring for the res toration of the silver dollar to its old place should remember that it is in the same position now that it always was-out of circulation.

Congressman Goode, of Virginia, has thrown up the Speakership contest. He gave up all hope when he found three members of the Virginia delegation pledged to Randall. It would be interesting to know how Mr. Randall secured those pledges. Which attitude on the subsidy question did he allow

Ex-Goy, Chamberlain says ex-Treasurer Parker does not tell the truth when he attributes dishonest conduct to him in South Carolina. The failure of the Grand Jury to indict Mr. Chamberlain gives additional force to his demal, while the prompt indictment of Mr. Parker is not calculated to help his side of a question of veracity.

The prevailing Democratic despondency has

settled upon the party in Pennsylvania, too. State Committee meets only to quarrel and assess the candidates for money. The party hasn't an issue to its back, or a cent in its pocket, and its seemingly inexhaustible supply of wind is falling at last. It should be put in its little grave, with its last word, "fraud," engraved on its tembstone.

The Ohio Democrats are bracing up sufficiently to

remark in chorus: "Oh, we are so confident!" Ex-Congressman Walling has carried the good news to Washington, and Chairman Thompson may be expected to burst out shortly with a bugle blast that will rock the whole State like a cradle. Your Uncle Dick isn't making any speeches, but he is doing a powerful amount of hand-shaking among the farmers and business men.

Gen. Toombs is actually in the field for the U.S. Senate. His friends say his course in the Constitutional Convention has opened a new career for him. For the credit of Georgia, the career ought to be short, and so conclusive that politics will never be burdened with him again. His course in the convention was simply reckless from beginning to end. All that is worst in the new Constitution is to be credited to him, and none of his pet projects were All that is worst in the new Constitution is to de-credited to him, and none of his pat projects were adopted, either. He would do Georgia and the South as much harm in the Senate as Mr. Gordon has does them good, and that is saying a great deal.

That Wisconsin platform bears painful marks of labor. If there is any member of the party in the State who is unable to find there his peculiar view of any existing political question, he must have a very original mind. The President's policy seems to have been set up on a pole, and a sort of "eighthands-around" performance executed about it, after which the pole was kicked over. It is claimed as a triumph of the friends of the President, but it reads like a masterpiece of Daniel Pratt. Fortunately, the ticket is good enough to push the platform into the background and keep it there.

Ex-Speaker Sloan-has had a sort of bewildering experience in State politics. His excellent record in the Assembly encouraged his friends to propose him for the head of the Republican ticket this Fall, and the proposition was making considerable headway, when the remark was made by a journal friendly to Mr. Conkling that Mr. Sloan was too useful a man to be spared from the Speaker's chair and that he would probably not consent to go up